

STATE OF NEW YORK

1963

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 14, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. SOLAGES, MITAYNES, EPSTEIN, TAYLOR, GONZALEZ-ROJAS, JACOBSON, SIMON, DAVILA, JACKSON -- read once and referred to the Committee on Insurance

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to universal newborn nurse home visiting services; to amend the insurance law, in relation to requiring health insurance coverage for universal newborn nurse home visiting services; authorizing the department of health to apply for certain waivers; and directing the superintendent of financial services to require an insurer, health carrier or health benefit plan to notify enrollees annually of universal newborn nurse home visiting services

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The public health law is amended by adding a new section 2500-n to read as follows:

§ 2500-n. Universal newborn nurse home visiting services. 1. As used in this section, "community" means a geographic region, county, tribe or other group of individuals living in proximity as defined by the department by rule.

2. (a) The commissioner shall design, implement and maintain a voluntary statewide program to provide universal newborn nurse home visiting services to all families with newborns residing in this state to support healthy child development and strengthen families. The commissioner shall design the universal newborn nurse home visiting program to be flexible so as to meet the needs of the communities where the program operates.

(b) In designing the program described in paragraph (a) of this subdivision, the commissioner shall consult, coordinate and collaborate, as necessary, with insurers that offer health benefit plans in this state, hospitals, local public health authorities, the early intervention

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 program, existing early childhood home visiting programs, community-
2 based organizations and social service providers.

3 3. The program shall provide nurse home visiting services that are:

4 (a) based on criteria established by the United States Department of
5 Health and Human Services for an evidence-based early childhood home
6 visiting service delivery model;

7 (b) provided by registered nurses licensed in this state to families
8 caring for newborns up to the age of six months, including foster and
9 adoptive newborns;

10 (c) provided in the family's home; and

11 (d) aimed at improving outcomes in one or more of the following
12 domains:

13 (i) child health;

14 (ii) child development and school readiness;

15 (iii) family economic self-sufficiency;

16 (iv) birth parent health;

17 (v) positive parenting;

18 (vi) reducing child mistreatment;

19 (vii) reducing juvenile delinquency;

20 (viii) reducing family violence; or

21 (ix) reducing crime.

22 4. The services provided in the program must:

23 (a) be voluntary and carry no negative consequences for a family that
24 declines to participate;

25 (b) be offered in every community in this state;

26 (c) include an evidence-based assessment of the physical, social and
27 emotional factors affecting the family;

28 (d) be offered to all families with newborns residing in the community
29 where the program operates;

30 (e) include at least one visit during a newborn's first three months
31 of life with the opportunity for the family to choose up to three addi-
32 tional visits;

33 (f) include a follow-up visit no later than three months after the
34 last visit; and

35 (g) provide information and referrals to address each family's identi-
36 fied needs.

37 5. The authority shall collect and analyze data generated by the
38 program to assess the effectiveness of the program in meeting the aims
39 described in paragraph (d) of subdivision three of this section and
40 shall work with other state agencies to develop protocols for sharing
41 data, including the timely sharing of data with primary care providers
42 of care to the families with newborns receiving the services.

43 6. The commissioner shall adopt by rule, consistent with the
44 provisions of this section, criteria for universal newborn nurse home
45 visiting services that must be covered by health benefit plans.

46 § 2. Subsection (i) of section 3216 of the insurance law is amended by
47 adding a new paragraph 40 to read as follows:

48 (40)(A) Every policy which provides hospital, surgical or medical
49 coverage shall provide coverage for universal newborn nurse home visit-
50 ing services as prescribed by the department of health by rule under
51 section twenty-five hundred-1 of the public health law. The coverage
52 must be provided without any cost-sharing, coinsurance or deductible
53 applicable to the services.

54 (B) Insurers must offer universal newborn nurse home visiting services
55 in their health benefit plans but an individual enrolled in the plan is

1 not required to receive the services as a condition of coverage and may
2 not be penalized or in any way discouraged from declining the services.

3 (C) An insurer must notify an individual enrolled in the plan about
4 the universal newborn nurse home visiting services whenever such indi-
5 vidual adds a newborn to coverage under the plan.

6 (D) An insurer may use in-network providers or may contract with local
7 public health authorities to provide the services.

8 (E) This paragraph does not require an insurer to reimburse the cost
9 of the services in any specific manner. The services may be reimbursed
10 using:

11 (i) a value-based payment methodology;

12 (ii) a claim invoicing process;

13 (iii) capitated payments;

14 (iv) a payment methodology that takes into account the need for a
15 community-based entity providing the services to expand its capacity to
16 provide the services and address health disparities; or

17 (v) any other methodology agreed to by the insurer and the provider of
18 the services.

19 (F) Insurers shall report to the department of public health, in the
20 form and manner prescribed by the department of public health, data
21 regarding claims submitted for services covered under this paragraph to
22 monitor the provision of the universal newborn nurse home visiting
23 services.

24 § 3. Subsection (k) of section 3221 of the insurance law is amended by
25 adding a new paragraph 24 to read as follows:

26 (24)(A) Every group or blanket policy delivered or issued for deliv-
27 ery in this state which provides hospital, surgical or medical
28 coverage shall include coverage for universal newborn nurse home visit-
29 ing services as prescribed by the department of health by rule under
30 section twenty-five hundred-l of the public health law. The coverage
31 must be provided without any cost-sharing, coinsurance or deductible
32 applicable to the services.

33 (B) Insurers must offer universal newborn nurse home visiting services
34 in their health benefit plans but an individual enrolled in the plan is
35 not required to receive the services as a condition of coverage and may
36 not be penalized or in any way discouraged from declining the services.

37 (C) An insurer must notify an individual enrolled in the plan about
38 the universal newborn nurse home visiting services whenever such indi-
39 vidual adds a newborn to coverage under the plan.

40 (D) An insurer may use in-network providers or may contract with local
41 public health authorities to provide the services.

42 (E) This paragraph does not require an insurer to reimburse the cost
43 of the services in any specific manner. The services may be reimbursed
44 using:

45 (i) a value-based payment methodology;

46 (ii) a claim invoicing process;

47 (iii) capitated payments;

48 (iv) a payment methodology that takes into account the need for a
49 community-based entity providing the services to expand its capacity to
50 provide the services and address health disparities; or

51 (v) any other methodology agreed to by the insurer and the provider of
52 the services.

53 (F) Insurers shall report to the department of public health, in the
54 form and manner prescribed by the department of public health, data
55 regarding claims submitted for services covered under this paragraph to

1 monitor the provision of the universal newborn nurse home visiting
2 services.

3 § 4. Section 4303 of the insurance law is amended by adding a new
4 subsection (ww) to read as follows:

5 (ww)(1) A medical expense indemnity corporation, a hospital service
6 corporation or a health service corporation that provides coverage for
7 hospital, surgical or medical care shall include coverage for universal
8 newborn nurse home visiting services as prescribed by the department of
9 health by rule under section twenty-five hundred-l of the public health
10 law. The coverage must be provided without any cost-sharing, coinsurance
11 or deductible applicable to the services.

12 (2) Insurers must offer universal newborn nurse home visiting services
13 in their health benefit plans but an individual enrolled in the plan is
14 not required to receive the services as a condition of coverage and may
15 not be penalized or in any way discouraged from declining the services.

16 (3) An insurer must notify an individual enrolled in the plan about
17 the universal newborn nurse home visiting services whenever such indi-
18 vidual adds a newborn to coverage under the plan.

19 (4) An insurer may use in-network providers or may contract with local
20 public health authorities to provide the services.

21 (5) This paragraph does not require an insurer to reimburse the cost
22 of the services in any specific manner. The services may be reimbursed
23 using:

24 (A) a value-based payment methodology;

25 (B) a claim invoicing process;

26 (C) capitated payments;

27 (D) a payment methodology that takes into account the need for a
28 community-based entity providing the services to expand its capacity to
29 provide the services and address health disparities; or

30 (E) any other methodology agreed to by the insurer and the provider of
31 the services.

32 (6) Insurers shall report to the department of public health, in the
33 form and manner prescribed by the department of public health, data
34 regarding claims submitted for services covered under this paragraph to
35 monitor the provision of the universal newborn nurse home visiting
36 services.

37 § 5. The department of health may request a waiver for state inno-
38 vation under 42 U.S.C. 18052 to obtain federal financial participation
39 in the cost of services provided under sections two, three and four of
40 this act.

41 § 6. The superintendent of financial services shall require an insur-
42 er, health carrier or health benefit plan to notify enrollees annually
43 of universal newborn nurse home visiting services covered by such enrol-
44 lees' health benefit plan. The notice shall be delivered by mail unless
45 the enrollee and health carrier have agreed on another method of notifi-
46 cation. The superintendent of financial services is authorized to
47 promulgate necessary rules and regulations for the purposes of providing
48 such notification.

49 § 7. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall
50 have become a law and shall apply to any policy issued, delivered,
51 renewed, and/or modified on or after the effective date of this act.
52 Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule
53 or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effec-
54 tive date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such
55 effective date.